

**From:** karlm@MIT.EDU@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 1:52pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Antritrust Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to voice my concerns over the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement and urge the court to reject the settlement. The court should be concerned that nine states' attorneys general are opposed to the proposed settlement.

The proposed settlement does not appear to make any notable punishment for past wrongdoing, and instead seems focused solely on correcting future behavior (the details of which seem inadequate).

Most disturbingly, my reading of the proposed settlement seems to indicate that Microsoft is given too many loopholes with which to commit anticompetitive behavior. Intellectual property and security concerns are too easily named as reasons for withholding protocol, API, and file format specifications. In particular, it is a widespread maxim in the security industry that a well designed security system relies only on the secrecy of encryption keys (or passwords) and not on the secrecy of the algorithms or processes involved. Microsoft has shown itself to be all too eager to exploit loopholes, and it appears that Microsoft is prepared to do so under the guise of restructuring the development process to make security the number one priority.

I would also like to point out that in the past year, Microsoft has been caught rigging polls (see <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/story/0,,t269-s2102244,00.html>) and taking other actions to create false "grass roots" support for Microsoft (sometimes referred to as "Astroturfing"). It is highly possible that Microsoft is taking similar measures with the proposed settlement and public commentary.

Sincerely,

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